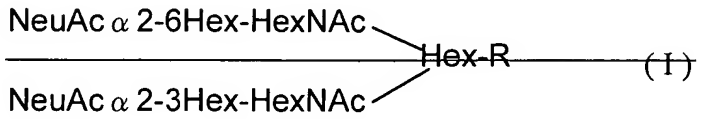
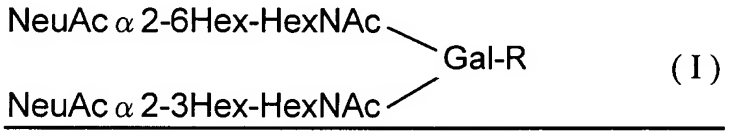
Amendment to the claims

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A ~~novel~~ branched sialo-sugar molecule represented by the following formula (I):





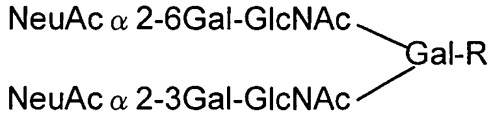
[[(]]wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group ~~may be~~ is optionally ~~chemically~~ modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Hex represents hexose, HexNAc represents *N*-acetylhexosamine and R represents a substrate selected from ~~among~~ a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, ~~a protein~~ and a synthetic polymer~~, and R may have a substituent)~~.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~novel~~ branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 11, wherein the *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose are linked by ~~a natural~~ an O-glycoside linkage.

13. (Cancelled)

14. **(Currently amended)** The ~~novel~~ branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 13, wherein the linkage form between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose is an S-glycoside linkage or a Se-glycoside linkage.

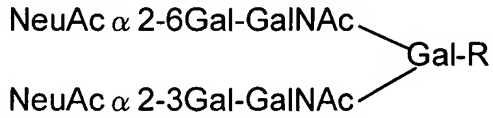
15. **(Currently amended)** A ~~novel~~ branched sialo-sugar molecule represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

[[(]]wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group ~~may be~~ is optionally ~~chemically~~ modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Gal represents galactose, GlcNAc represents *N*-acetylglucosamine and R represents a substrate selected from ~~among~~ a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, ~~a protein~~ and a synthetic polymer~~, and R may have a substituent~~).

16. **(Currently amended)** A novel branched sialo-sugar molecule represented by the following formula (III):



(III)

[[(]]wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group ~~may be~~ is optionally ~~chemically~~ modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Gal represents galactose, GalNAc represents *N*-acetylgalactosamine and R represents a substrate selected from ~~among~~ a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, ~~a protein~~ and a synthetic polymer~~, and R may have a substituent~~).

17. **(Currently amended)** The ~~novel~~ branched sialo-sugar molecule according to either claim 15 or 16, wherein the *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose are linked by ~~a natural~~ an O-glycoside linkage.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The ~~novel~~ branched sialo-sugar molecule according to either claim ~~18~~ 15 or 16, wherein the linkage form between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose is an S-glycoside linkage or a Se-glycoside linkage.

20. (Currently amended) An antiviral agent by comprising at least one ~~the novel~~ branched sialo-sugar molecule according to any one of claims 11, 15 and 16 as an active ingredient.